

One Year Ago in Figure Four Weekly (#239) plus ordering information
by Bryan Alvarez

Thanks for clicking on this special feature, One Year Ago in Figure Four Weekly. If you enjoy this issue and decide you'd like to become a regular subscriber, information on how to do so is located at the end of this issue.

One Year Ago in Figure Four Weekly

Russo demoted, WCW in Turmoil

The beginning

I guess it all started way back at Starrcade 1999.

Bret Hart, during his match with Goldberg, took a particularly stiff kick to the head and ended up getting a severe concussion. At the time, Bret didn't know he had a concussion — he just thought his head hurt really bad from being kicked, and if he kept working it would get better.

It didn't get better. So on January 13th, three days before the Souled Out pay-per-view, Bret went to his doctor in Calgary and was told in no uncertain terms that he absolutely could not wrestle on the show.

Bret Hart's fan club immediately offered the following statement: "After a doctor visit this morning in Calgary, prompted by chronic head pain and other symptoms, a prominent medical specialist told Bret that he has a serious concussion. Bret will be out of action for an undetermined amount of time. **THIS IS NOT A WRESTLING STORYLINE.** The concussion was bad enough that medical advice was not to fly, lift heavy objects, or 'do anything'."

Bret, who was bedridden at last report, was told he should stay out of action for three weeks minimum, but he scheduled another appointment for January 20th in the hopes that he'd be cleared to at least return to TV in a non-wrestling capacity on January 24th.

To their credit, WCW immediately issued the following statement on their website: "World Championship Wrestling regrets to announce that Bret Hart will not be able to compete in the main event at Sunday's Souled Out pay-per-view. He does not have medical clearance to wrestle due to a concussion. WCW apologizes for the inconvenience and wants to assure fans that the quality and integrity of the pay-per-view will not suffer as a result of the card change. Sid Vicious will still participate in the WCW Heavyweight Title match-up, though at this time his opponent is not known."

In other words, they stripped Bret of the title for missing one match.

Just when things were starting to look really bad for the company, they actually got worse. Jeff Jarrett, who was scheduled to wrestle three matches against Chris Benoit, was told by his doctor that he also had a major concussion and wouldn't be able to work on the show. Jarrett's injury occurred when Jimmy Snuka splashed him off the top of the cage on Nitro and his head snapped back and hit the canvas. Jarrett actually worked the Thunder tapings on Tuesday, but was said to be in a lot of pain. Apparently, Jarrett was going to ignore his doctor and work the PPV anyway, but his wife got concerned and informed WCW of the situation. They called his doctor, and when the news was confirmed they pulled him from the show.

So, in one day, four matches had to be scrapped from Souled Out, at a time when every major TV show except WCW Saturday Night had already aired. One would think that things couldn't get much worse.

But they did. WCW announced that a new card would be revealed on the WCW Live show at 7:00 PM EST on Friday. Well, 7:00 came and went and there was no announcement. The reason there was no announcement was because things had begun falling apart backstage as well.

Earlier that afternoon, Vince Russo had presented a revised booking plan for the show to Bill Busch. His new plan was to include a Royal Rumble-style match with the winner becoming the new WCW Heavyweight Champion. The winner, Russo said, would be Tank Abbott. He wouldn't be a long-term champ, but he'd hold the belt for a couple of weeks before likely losing it back to Bret Hart.

Busch flat-out said no to these plans and they got into an argument. Russo said he had been given full control of booking and demanded to know why Busch was trying to tell him what he could or could not do. Eventually, Brad Siegel got involved and finally ordered a new booking committee to be formed with Russo no longer in full control. Russo, Ed Ferrara and Bill Banks were all invited to stay on as writers in the committee, positions Ferrara and Banks immediately accepted. Russo did not make a decision and was sent home.

With Russo out of the picture, a new show had to be written and a new committee had to be formed. On their website, WCW announced that a new card would be revealed on a special Saturday night edition of WCW Live.

Friday night, WCW contacted Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage. Their early plan was to fly all of them in to work the weekend pay-per-view and the Nitro show Monday. There were also discussions about putting the WCW Title on Flair with a win over Sid. From what we can gather, it was first suggested that Flair win the belt after special referee Arn Anderson hit Sid with a tire iron. Flair said if they really wanted him back that badly, they'd give him the win clean in the middle with the Figure Four. By Saturday morning, the idea to put the belt on Flair had pretty much fallen through. The plan now seems to be to build towards a big return for Flair on the unopposed February 14th Nitro (Raw will air late due to the annual Westminster Dog Show), in the hopes that they can pop a huge quarter hour rating.

Savage, whose current deal expired at 12:00 AM late Friday night, still flew in on the final day of his contract to work the house show in Charleston, WV, putting over Sid. Savage deserves a ton of credit for agreeing to take this gig on his last day in the company, but this may also be an indication that he desperately wants WCW to sign him to a new deal and there is little chance of him jumping to the WWF. Savage and WCW still appear to be very far apart when it comes to money, because the initial plan was to bring Savage back for Souled Out and Nitro, but those plans fell through as well.

There really isn't much to say on Hogan. The word spread through the locker room Friday that WCW wanted to bring him back for Nitro, and many of the wrestlers stated that they didn't feel Hogan was going to come back and bail out the company. As it turns out, they were right. There is no word on the status of Hogan, since he and WCW are apparently very far apart on money. If everything can be worked out, he's expected back February 14th as well.

The new committee that was formed saw Kevin Sullivan, JJ Dillon and Terry Taylor in charge of booking with Bill Banks, Ed Ferrara, and Bob Mould (who quit last week because he had no role, but agreed to return once Russo was ousted from power) working underneath as writers. Kevin Nash is not officially a member of the booking committee, but will contribute some ideas for storylines. He is also working as a liaison between the committee and the boys. Nash was actually offered the WCW Title with a victory over Sid as well, but he turned it down, saying he would get way too much heat from the boys if he won the role of Commissioner, won the WCW Title and became an unofficial member of the booking committee all on the same weekend.

Things really exploded when word got around that Sullivan had been put in charge of booking again. Sullivan is extremely unpopular among most of the mid-carders. Most feel that he holds grudges from the past, looks out for the major names like Hogan and Savage, and will never elevate anyone from the midcard. One source stated that Sullivan "hates tall people", which is kind of funny when you think about it since everyone in WCW is tall compared to Sullivan. Another source said: "I like Sullivan, but he's the Devil". Others had far less complimentary things to say about him.

The theory is that Sullivan and Dillon were the ones who made the power move to get Russo ousted, and Sullivan has apparently been working to get rid of him since day one. Dillon was said to be an ally of Russo at the beginning, but when Russo started turning Nitro into a "comedy show" he began to side with Sullivan. Dillon also sat ringside at the New Japan Tokyo Dome show and totally marked out, realizing that New Japan was doing everything right and WCW was doing everything wrong. He came back to America with this vision of turning WCW into New Japan, the problem being that he has no concept of how to get from point A to point B, having only seen a great show by a promotion that has spent years to get to point B.

Not only do many of the wrestlers hate Sullivan, but many feel Russo wasn't given a fair shake and shouldn't have been demoted before the "promised" first six months were up. One major wrestler said everyone was totally miserable before Russo jumped ship and that he helped turn

the company morale around despite making a few mistakes along the way. He helped bring their production out of the Stone Age. Several wrestlers described him as a workaholic the likes of which had never been seen before in the company. Russo would always leave his cell phone on and wrestlers could call him 24 hours a day if they had anything to discuss, and Russo would almost always stop whatever he was doing to talk with them. He also was forced to rearrange a lot of storylines recently due to the injuries suffered by Goldberg, Hart and Jarrett. On the other hand, after three months in control, ratings were only up realistically about a tenth of a point, house show business was down and buyrates remained very low. Also, when you look at some of the ideas Russo had for the next several weeks, it kind of becomes apparent that things would probably be exactly the same three months from now as they are today.

Russo apparently made several phone calls to various anti-Sullivan wrestlers Friday night trying to arrange some sort of mass walk-out. Everyone I talked to said that their contracts made any sort of walk-out pretty much impossible, unless every single person in the entire company walked out, which wasn't going to happen.

In another very interesting sidenote, Eric Bischoff called several guys over the weekend and hinted that if they should get their releases, they should just sit home for awhile and not sign with the WWF. Bischoff, who is still under contract to WCW, couldn't really say much more since that would be considered contract tampering, but the feeling is that he's been talking with FOX for quite some time and wants to try and get a group of guys to go over there and become involved in a new upstart promotion somewhere down the road.

The WCW Live show on Saturday night ended up being somewhat of a disaster, since so many people tried to listen in that the show jammed and thousands and thousands of listeners couldn't connect (we actually had the same problem on the Eyada show Monday). WCW.com issued a statement explaining that both the US and Heavyweight Titles were being held up, with the US Title being determined at a later date and the World Title being up for grabs at the PPV in a match between Sid and Chris Benoit.

On WCW Saturday Night earlier in the evening, the card was announced as being unchanged, with Bret Hart and Jeff Jarrett still competing in their scheduled matches. This is pretty deplorable since voiceovers for the show were done Friday night when everyone in WCW was fully aware that Bret and Jarrett weren't going to be at the PPV. WCW can argue that they didn't want to do voiceovers until they had a new card prepared, but at the very least they could have addressed the injuries on the show.

The Benoit decision ended up being particularly interesting, because on Sunday morning everything exploded again. The night before, as many as twenty wrestlers agreed to go to Bill Busch and ask for their releases all at once. As it turned out, only seven of them ended up taking a stand. Benoit, Dean Malenko, Eddy Guerrero, Billy Kidman, Shane Douglas, Konnan and Saturn all met privately with Bill Busch Sunday and requested full releases from WCW. During the meeting, which was described as business-like, Saturn pointed out that Busch had stated in a talent meeting a few months back that if anyone was unhappy with the company they

would be given a full release. Busch told everyone to give him a week, and if things weren't better he'd either fire Sullivan or talk to them about a release. Reports vary on whether Busch actually said he'd give them a release during this meeting or not.

Several wrestlers have stated that they don't think Busch has the balls to give a full release to everyone who asks for one. They point out that several other wrestlers, including Ric Flair, have asked for their release recently and been turned down. Others don't think there are seven spots in the WWF for \$500,000 each. My opinion is that there definitely are seven spots, although not likely at \$500,000 each. The guarantee is just a formality, however, since there are top stars in the WWF right now making \$3 million off a \$400,000 guarantee (guys get bonuses for house show appearances, pay-per-views, merchandising, etc.). The WWF is worth just under a billion dollars right now, so if Vince wanted to he could probably sign a hundred guys to \$500,000 per year deals.

This leads us to Sunday night at the Firststar Center in Cincinnati, OH.

The Pay-Per-View

The pre-show was among the worst I've ever seen, although to WCW's credit they did announce the changes on the card for everyone who hadn't bought the show yet. First, they did this injury angle with Konnan. This angle had been planned all along, because they needed some way to get rid of the Animals vs. Revolution match, but the decision had also been made to send Konnan home because management felt he was responsible for stirring the pot among the guys who ended up asking for their release. Well, believe me, this angle alone ended up being more punishment for Konnan than anything else they could have done. Konnan was cutting this promo when the Revolution came in and laid him out with some of the worst kicks you'll ever see. Konnan had to sell these lame kicks like he'd been killed. Then, like in a comedy show, a stretcher was immediately zoomed in literally seconds after the last stomp had been thrown. Konnan was carelessly tossed onto it and whisked away to Doghouse Land. Then, if that wasn't bad enough, Vampiro was cutting a promo and got jumped by David and Crowbar. This beating was even worse than the one earlier, if that is possible. Seconds after the beating ended, Tony Schiavone went over to the punked-out Vampiro and asked him his thoughts on what had just occurred. I'm not making this up. Vamp challenged both David and Crowbar to a handicap match later. Then, in probably the funniest moment of the evening, Scott Hudson screamed to fans that they still had "plenty of time to order" as the on-screen clock literally showed 12 seconds left before the show began. Poor WCW.

They showed footage of Goldberg kicking Bret. Ouch.

They announced that, since Konnan had been injured, Kidman would fight in the Triple Threat Theatre against Malenko, Saturn and a mystery opponent. Reports live from the show said this got almost no reaction because everyone wanted to see Benoit vs. Jarrett.

1. Kidman beat Dean Malenko. Tony announced this as a "catch-as-catch-can" match, although he never told us what the rules were to such a match. Apparently, the rules were that if you touched the floor, you lost. So, sure enough, Malenko literally forgot the rules and stepped out of the ring about two minutes into the match. So the referee called for the bell. Both Malenko and Kidman looked HELLA pissed. So, because of some pointless stipulations that nobody, including the wrestlers, understood, what should have been the best match on the show ended up being one of the worst. -**

Vampiro cut a promo. Masa Chono came in and said something in Japanese. The announcers downplayed this as much as possible.

2. Vampiro beat David Flair & Crowbar in a handicap match. The stuff with Vamp and Crowbar looked OK, but David looked greener than an unripe banana. Ric needs to teach his son how to chop. A few good dives by Vamp and Crowbar. Finish saw David and Crowbar get into a fight and then Vamp gave David a Michinoku Driver for the pinfall. Some decent stuff, but overall not very good. *1/4

3. Big Vito & Johnny the Bull beat Harris Twins. Disco came out with the Italians but the angle is that he really doesn't want to be with them. Harris' basically beat the stuff out of Johnny for ten minutes. The twins were inexplicably working as heels. I thought they were faces? And if the Italians are really the good guys, why doesn't Disco want to be with them? Some "Boring!" chants. No heat. Except for the "Boring!" chants that is. Finish saw Vito go up top. Disco shoved him off, but Vito ended up clotheslining one of the Harris' for the pin. So the angle is that the Italians still think Disco is on their side and helping them win matches. Creative booking, pretty bad wrestling. Johnny is going to be the bomb someday. 3/4*

4. Oklahoma beat Madusa to win the WCW Cruiserweight Title. Horrible booking, worse wrestling. There were some cute girls in the front row and that was the highlight of this match. Oklahoma totally blew up within seconds. Finish saw Asya come down and help Spice beat up Oklahoma. Oklahoma sold this beating by immediately rolling up Madusa for the pin. My God, Ferrara can't even book his own matches right. Absolutely ATROCIOUS. -**

5. Brian Knobs beat Norman Smiley & Fit Finley & Meng in a four-way to retain the Hardcore Title. This was the best hardcore match that Bobby had ever seen. Keep in mind that this is the same Bobby who also called a police shield a "chair" in this same match (really). To be perfectly honest, this was actually pretty good, with a lot of decent brawling and some good gimmick shots. Also, Meng's hair. Finish saw Knobs pin Norman pretty much out of nowhere. Certainly not the best ever, but far from the worst. **

6. Kidman beat Saturn. Saturn went for a cover on the floor early. OK, so now you can not only step on the floor, but you can make a cover there too. Whatever. WCW needs to make sure they always make the rules of these gimmick matches VERY clear. There were times during this match when it looked like neither guy really cared about what they were doing. Match was still pretty good. Kidman took an overhead belly-to-belly at one point through a table. You know the

spot where Kidman's opponent goes for a powerbomb and Kidman turns it into a facebuster? Well, the finish was supposed to be that same spot off the top rope. Unfortunately, they lost their balance and Saturn basically just got backdropped to the mat. Since they fucked up the finish, they just did the powerbomb reversal spot in mid-ring and Kidman got the pin. **3/4

They aired video footage of Stevie Ray going back to the ghetto and hanging out with his buddies. Nobody is going to believe me when I write this, but this was the absolute best thing on the show up to this point. Really.

7. Booker T beat Stevie Ray—DQ. Booker send Midnight to the back before the match began. This was surprisingly not horrible and actually turned into a solid wrestling match. Booker won by DQ when Tony Norris, the former Ahmed Johnson, boomp-loomped down to the ring and attacked him. Boy, was Norris ever fat. And horrible. Some mark fans in the front row chanted "AHMED!" Stevie called Norris "Big T" and announced that they were the New Harlem Heat. Oh boy. The praise I have heaped on Stevie Ray recently officially ends right now. *3/4

8. Tank Abbott beat Jerry Flynn in a shoot match. This was an amazingly decent match for what it was. It only went about two minutes and they actually worked it like it was a real shoot. Tank missed Flynn with a punch by several yards and Flynn sold it like he'd been killed. Wow, that is a hell of a punch. *

9. Buff Bagwell beat Dallas Page in a Last Man Standing match. Usually, these ten-count matches are horrible, but this one ended up being pretty good. They had planned only three ten-count spots, but managed to do about six without the crowd getting bored. I really have to heap praise on the referee here, since he acted like a cheerleader whenever it was time for a ten-count and really brought the crowd into it. They brawled back by the WCW.com table and threw monitors and keyboards at each other. Bagwell put Page through the table. Mark Madden should have given them both a big splash while he had the opportunity and then stolen Kimberly. Near the finish, Bagwell hit a repulsive Blockbuster, but Page got up by nine. Bagwell then whupped him with a police baton, but Page made it to his feet again. The finish was Page hitting a desperation Diamond Cutter, but Bagwell held on to the top rope so Page took the bump. Page couldn't get to his feet and Bagwell won the match. The finish was a bit screwed-up because the director cut away to a shot of Kimberly coming down the aisle, so a lot of fans thought Page just hit a regular Diamond Cutter and then couldn't get up. Page destroyed Bagwell with the baton after the match, and Kimberly gave that one glance back at Bagwell as they left to tease that maybe she had the hots for him after all. Good match. ***1/2

10. Kidman beat the Wall in a Caged Heat match. This was basically the Hell in the Cell cage. No response whatsoever when Douglas announced Wall as the mystery partner. Kidman bumped like crazy and eventually got pinned with a chokeslam. The original plan was for Kidman to win all three matches, so I don't know what happened here. Terrible booking. Wall doesn't get elevated by beating a guy who's already wrestled three matches, and Kidman looked like a jabronie for losing to the goddamn Wall. *

11. Kevin Nash beat Terry Funk to become WCW Commissioner. Camera zoomed in on a "Look at Nash's Gut!" sign. Fire the director immediately. Actually, give him a raise. Nash powerbombed Funk through the announce table about two minutes in and Funk bled a gusher. A wood shard from the table hit Bobby in the eye legit and they actually had to get a doctor down to ringside to make sure he was OK. Nash got on the mic and told Funk he could keep his commissioner's job if he just got back in the ring. Funk dramatically climbed back in, at which point Nash said: "I'm a lying son-of-a-bitch". Boy, what a dick. Nash killed Funk forever. Finally, he set up two chairs with a third set up in the middle and powerbombed Funk through them for the pin. Man, Funk worked for ten men here. Unfortunately, Nash worked for negative eight, so this ended up just being an OK match. And for those of you who think I'm being too hard on Nash, I was actually being complimentary because he usually works for negative twenty men. **

12. Chris Benoit beat Sid to win the WCW Heavyweight Title. Arn Anderson was the special guest referee for this bout. Sid almost danced to the ring, which was pretty disturbing. Benoit is 6'0" and 220 pounds this week. For the first time probably in his life, Michael Buffer REALLY added a lot to this match with his ring introductions. I would go as far as to say he was awesome. The locker room emptied to watch the match, which was pretty cool. This match was perfectly booked, because Benoit took some incredible bumps for Sid's welfare offense at the beginning, and then fought back and just beat the shit out of him forever. Sid actually TOOK SOME STIFF CHOPS in addition to a dropkick RIGHT TO THE GOLLDARN HEAD. Also, a DOPE GERMAN SUPLEX. All these capitalized words should make you realize how amazing this was. Benoit hit the diving headbutt but Sid kicked out and Hulked Up (TM). Sid hit a PHATASS chokeslam and went for the cover, but Benoit's foot was under the bottom rope so Arn stopped his count. Benoit quickly applied the crossface and Sid tapped out immediately. Arn called for the bell even though Sid's foot was under the bottom rope as well. Man, if they ever add chapters to the Bible they can list this as the First Miracle of the Year 2000. ***

Benoit cut a great promo after the match praising his idol Dynamite Kid and saying this World Title win finally proved that he really wasn't too small to make it in wrestling.

Monday

WCW did their best to kiss Benoit's ass. Internally, the feeling was that the company could lose the other six guys, but it was very important that they keep Benoit. Both WWF and ECW would take Benoit in an instant, and Paul Heyman has said in the past that he would push Benoit as the biggest star in his company. No matter what happens, Benoit will be OK since he can also work anywhere in Japan should a US deal fall through. Apparently, WCW felt that Benoit would mark out for the title and agree to stay with the company if they promised him a huge push. Over the weekend, they promised him various things including three straight wins on Nitro Monday and a push as the biggest star in the company. Unfortunately, they apparently rubbed him the wrong way by telling him to not hang out with the other troublemakers, a move that ended up costing them bigtime Monday afternoon.

Just hours prior to Nitro, Benoit, Saturn, Douglas and Malenko met again with Busch. They again expressed their interest in getting a release if Sullivan were to remain part of the booking committee. Busch said he'd meet with them later in the week to "discuss" their releases. Shortly thereafter, Busch called another meeting and said he was sending Saturn, Douglas and Malenko home. The feeling is that Busch wanted to separate Benoit from the "bad influences" and then put him over like crazy on Nitro in the hopes that this would convince him to stay. Instead, it worked just the opposite. Benoit spoke up, saying he felt the same way about everything that they did, and wondered why he wasn't being sent home as well. Busch said that Benoit was their champion and they wanted him on the show. He added that if Benoit went home, he'd be stripped of the WCW Title. Benoit said the title didn't mean that much to him, handed the belt to Nick Patrick, and left the room with the others.

Shortly thereafter, WCW.com announced that Benoit had been stripped of the title and that an announcement would be made on Nitro. On the show, they detailed the storyline reason for Benoit being stripped [see Nitro report] and said a decision regarding the title would be announced on Thunder. Jeff Jarrett was also given his US Title back by Kevin Nash. As of press time, we have no information on how WCW plans to handle the title situation, but my recommendation would be to just return it to Hart. Bret was not scheduled to lose to Sid in the first place and it was a pretty pointless decision to strip him of the title for missing one event. WCW apparently felt that their titles were so important that they would make the difference between whether fans would buy Souled Out or not, so they figured they had to have a title match on the show. The problem is that decisions like this cheapen the belts, and the WCW titles for the most part have been damaged so badly that they mean absolutely nothing at this point in terms of whether or not people are going to watch the programming or buy the PPVs.

Kevin Sullivan ran everything backstage at Nitro and Vince Russo was not at the show. Nothing of any major importance happened while the show was on the air, although word had begun floating around that the initial buyrate numbers for the PPV the night before were well below the 0.30 range. Overall the show was OK, with a renewed emphasis on longer wrestling matches. In a few cases, that was good, in a few cases it was bad and in once case it was horrendous. The feeling seems to be that WCW is going to try to get back to more "traditional wrestling", whatever that means in this day and age. If they book old-style with old-style wrestling, things are probably going to get worse. If they can manage to book old-style with some good state-of-the-art wrestling, things may end up being just fine.

After the show everyone went to the bar to relax. One wrestler said everything had pretty much calmed down at this point and the guys were just exhausted from everything that happened over the weekend.

Obviously there will be much more to this story in the next several days. An unconfirmed rumor at press time was that everyone who asked for their release had been faxed the paperwork except for Benoit. We have no idea at this time whether any of them will sign the papers, or whether Benoit himself will be given a release. There has also been no decision made by

Russo, although he has indicated that he's willing to come back to a committee that Sullivan is not a part of.

Godfather is mad, man

Special to Figure Four Weekly

World Wrestling Federation superstar Godfather is mad, man, according to sources close to the situation.

"He's definitely mad," said Marianna Brantley, who plays a "ho" on World Wrestling Federation TV. "I don't know why, but I know he's mad. I have a feeling it may have something to do with that bitch Luna Vachon, but I really can't say one way or another."

An unnamed source also sent Figure Four Weekly a videotape of the January 12 WWF Sunday Night Heat program, in which Godfather states: "Man, I'm mad, man. Man, I'm so mad!"

Godfather was not available for comment.

Internet Quote of the Week

"Kevin Nash should be paid seven figures: \$0000000."

Special Thanks

I would like to thank the following individuals for their help in putting Figure Four Weekly together: Gladys Gibson, Carlos and Valerie Alvarez, Dave Meltzer, Craig Proper, Brent Kremen, Mike Rodgers, Tadashi Tanaka, Natina Schulz, Koji Yamamoto, Peter Stein, Mike Lorefice, Carlos Loera, John Courville, Brian Schenk, Bruce Mitchell, Mike Mooneyham, Bob Barnett, Georgiann Makropolous, Johnson Cox, Scott Goldstein, Curt Creighton, Mike Lano, Therra Gwyn.

WWF News and Notes

- Steve Austin's spinal surgery on January 17th was said to have gone just about as well as could be expected. A piece of Austin's hip was taken out and inserted into his neck during the three hour operation. Dr. Youngblood appeared on Raw with an update on Austin's condition and stated that there was a good chance he'd be able to return to the ring within one year. Youngblood also stated that Austin would probably have no physical limitations if his rehab was as successful as his surgery. WWF issued a two-line press release on the Business Wire Tuesday stating that they were "elated" with Youngblood's prognosis and would welcome Austin back whenever he was ready. For what it's worth, the release didn't help the WWFE stock one bit, as it closed at 14 and 1/4 that afternoon.

- The Opie and Anthony radio show airs on WNEW in New York, which just happens to be the same station that will air the new WWF radio show on Westwood One. Everyone in the radio industry in New York now believes that the entire Rock deal was a work from day one. My feeling is that it wasn't a work at the beginning, but it definitely is now. Opie and Anthony announced last week that Rock would be coming back to the show on January 20th for a "confrontation", and then started making some more racial cracks. Really. We'll have a report on the show next week.

- Rock taped the Martin Short show earlier in the week. As has become the norm with Rock interviews, he was out of character talking as Dwayne Johnson. Almost nothing of note was said, although Rock assumed he would be number one on the New York Times bestseller list by the time the show aired. We don't have an airdate, but apparently it will be sometime during sweeps.

- Anywhere from 5,000 to 15,000 people flooded Los Angeles for the Rock's book signing this past Thursday. They actually had to close down the mall and adjacent parking lots because of the crowds, and the streets were gridlocked. Did I mention that the Rock is rather popular with the yahoos?

- The WWF Armageddon commercial videotape will leave in the footage of Miss Kitty taking her top off.

- Taz is expected to debut soon after the Royal Rumble. As far as I know, there is no significance to the number 13 that has appeared with his symbol on the TitanTron. All of Taz's merchandise has had a 13 on it for years.

- Jim Ross in his online report said that the WWF would be moving its farm system from Power Pro to Jerry Lawler's new Memphis Championship Wrestling organization. This is actually something that had been expected for several weeks now. Lawler will be heavily involved in the new MCW TV show which will air in Memphis on Channel 30. No word on how this affects the relationship between the WWF and Jim Cornette, who was booking Power Pro. We should have more info on this story next week as well.

- Chyna had some funny things to say on MTV's Time Out show last week. She claimed that twenty to sixty thousand people regularly watch her perform. I believe she has performed in front of sixty thousand people exactly one time, at the Royal Rumble in the Alamo Dome a few years back, and the WWF hasn't drawn anywhere near 60,000 since then. She suggested that wrestling might never be an Olympic sport. It takes guts for a celebrity to go on live TV with such an outlandish belief. She also said — and this is the best part — that she's coming out with her own workout video. At this point, she looked straight into the camera and said, deadpan, that the video would show women how to get a chest like hers. She's right. One video underneath each breast and you're set to go.

WWF On Tour

Grand Rapids, MI (January 12): Godfather d. Gangrel, Kurt Angle d. Brooklyn Brawler, Phatu d. Midian, Acolytes d. Dudleys, Edge & Christian d. Too Cool & Hardy & Hollys, Test d. Steve Blackman, Kane d. Prince Albert, Chris Jericho d. Al Snow, Big Bossman d. Big Show in a cage match.

East Rutherford, NJ (January 16): Godfather & D-Lo Brown d. Midian & Gangrel, Acolytes d. Dudleys, Rikishi Phatu d. Steve Blackman, Edge & Christian d. Headbangers & Too Cool, Kane d. Big Bossman, Kurt Angle d. Test, Chris Jericho d. Bob Holly, Big Show d. Al Snow, New Age Outlaws d. Hardy, Cactus Jack & Rock d. HHH & X-Pac.

WWF On Television

WWF Smackdown (January 13 — Taped January 11): HHH and Stephanie came down to the ring. Hunter apologized for being such a dick to DX lately. He promised to make it up to them. He signed Outlaws vs. Faarooq and Outlaws vs. Bradshaw in handicap matches, and said if either of the Acolytes interfered in the other's match, they would be stripped of their Tag Title shot at the Rumble. Hunter also signed himself and X-Pac vs. Rock & Big Show in the main event. Hunter started running down Foley and called him out. Fake Mankind came out and groveled at HHH's feet. Foley then came out on the ramp and cut a promo. He said Mankind was not ready to face Hunter at the Rumble. He said the fans deserved a substitute, and they popped big. Foley then took off his mask and shirt to reveal: "Wanted! Dead or Alive". Yup, Cactus Jack is back. Fake Mankind tried to hit Jack with a chair, but Jack killed him. Hunter ran for his life as Jack destroyed Fake Mankind with a chair-assisted elbow off the apron. Crowd went hoss for this and Foley rules the damn world... Outlaws d. Bradshaw in a pretty boring match... Jonathan Coachman interviewed Rock. This was pretty funny as usual... Rikishi Phatu & Too Cool d. Hollys & Al Snow. Good match. Al beat up his partners afterwards. Rikishi and Too Cool had a new dance this week... Gangrel NC Test when Luna hit the referee. Cole said that if Test beat Gangrel, it would be an upset. "Why would that be an upset?" asked Lawler. Well, he's right. Test gave Luna a pumphandle slam and Gangrel a flying elbow afterwards... Chyna and Jericho had a meeting backstage and agreed to get along. That was pretty stupid of Jericho... Hardy d. Bossman & Albert. The bad guys broke up and got into a fight afterwards. That's a money feud... Giant cut a promo backstage. He said he was pissed because Rock called him a jabronie. "I don't like the Rock!" Show revealed. Now THAT is a complex, storyline-driven angle... Edge & Christian beat Angle & Blackman when Blackman got pinned. Cole said that Edge and Val would be "brother-in-laws" soon. Lawler said: "Brothers-in-law, you idiot!" I pop whenever Lawler calls Cole an idiot... Chyna told Tori that Jericho had been fantasizing about her lately. Someone call Brent Bozell. Chyna suggested a non-title Kane vs. Jericho match for later... Outlaws d. Faarooq. Really short but OK. Bradshaw saved his partner after the match... Godfather & D-Lo Brown d. Headbangers. D-Lo may play a better pimp than Godfather... Coach interviewed Rock and Show. They got into an argument... Jericho came out for his match with Kane and said this was all Chyna's fault. He dug himself into a bigger hole

with inadvertent shots at Tori. Kane murdered him with a chokeslam. This was a really good match and Jericho did a great job. It's just too bad that he has "too much muscle" and such "bad timing" and wrestles so much "like a Cruiserweight" and doesn't "have a main event style"... HHH and Steph apologized to X-Pac backstage. Waltman said he trusted Hunter, but not Steph... Hunter & X-Pac d. Rock & Show. Show walked out on Rock, leaving him to be pinned clean by Hunter. Can you imagine, on the Rock's show? I guess the plan is not to make Wight a full-fledged heel, but just to have him work some matches against Rock in the near future. Overall, a decent show, but kind of boring.

Raw is War (January 17 — Live): The show opened with Cactus Jack coming out and cutting a dope promo. He said he was a bad man and was going to kill HHH. "FOLEY!" the rubes chanted. Hey, you idiots, he's Cactus now. Jack called out HHH. Helmsely came out and they argued about the Rumble match. Jack said he didn't want to talk, he wanted to fight. Hunter said OK, and called out DX for backup. They punked Cactus until Rock came out to make the save. Suddenly, Giant ran down and attacked everybody. The Acolytes then hit the ring and attacked DX. The stuff with Hunter and Cactus was really cool... Test beat Bossman to win the WWF Hardcore Title when Prince Albert interfered. Bossman and Albert brawled afterwards. Pretty bad... Godfather & D-Lo Brown d. Edge & Christian. This could have been worse, I guess. Godfather offered his ho's to Edge and Christian afterwards and they freaked out... Bossman and Albert brawled backstage and Albert ended up tripping into Tori's dressing room. She freaked out, thinking Albert was going to violate her... Kurt Angle d. Steve Blackman when Bulldog came out and hit Blackman with the kendo stick. Great, now we have to watch Bulldog vs. Blackman. Bulldog was noticeably smaller. He must have run out of protein shakes last week and is waiting for Gold Card Tuesday at GNC to get more... Jonathan Coachman interviewed Big Show. Show reminded fans that he didn't like Rock. "I'm not a jabronie, and I'm not going to take it!" Wide proclaimed. Them are fightin' words. Show added that he still liked the fans and hoped they understood. Weird... Lawler interviewed the Bikini Contest participants (BB, Jackie, Luna, Kitty and Ivory). They got into an argument and some clothes came off. Nothing much of note. Mae Young then came down to the ring and started to strip, but Mark Henry ran out and covered her up with his jacket. I've never been so happy to see Mark Henry. Ross hinted that we might see some puppies at the PPV. "Buyer beware!" he added... Acolytes d. HHH & X-Pac—DQ when DX ran in. Outlaws beat up the Acolytes after the match. This was OK... Clips from the press conference with Dr. Youngblood aired... Rock cut a promo. He put over Austin and told him to come back soon. He ran down Giant and made fun of him... Jeff Hardy d. Bubba Ray Dudley clean in a good match. Afterwards, the Dudleys killed them and gave Matt Hardy a superbomb through both Jeff and a table. That was the, well, superbomb. Fabulous carnage... Rikishi Phatu d. Chris Jericho—DQ when the Hollys and Chyna ran in. Too Cool made the save. Phatu then killed Crash with a SWANK Asbury Park Driver. Too Cool and Phatu danced afterwards... Kane squashed Prince Albert with a CHOICE chokeslam. At least it was short... Outlaws d. Rock & Big Show. Rock attacked Show immediately. Rock then worked the entire match until Show got pissed and made the tag by punching Rock. Rock responded by hitting Show with a chair, allowing Billy to get the pin. Rock then gave Show a People's Elbow. Rock sure is a jerk when you think about it. He was a jerk to Foley during the original Rock & Sock Connection days, calling him a loser with a fat ass. He makes fun of people all the time

and says it doesn't matter what they do. He calls handicapped people like Kane "retarded". He tells people to stick things up their own ass. He frowns in a surly manner during interviews. He beats up his own tag partners and gives them the People's Elbow. And wrestling fans still like him. Wrestling fans must be fucked up. Not a great Raw, and they did a pretty piss-poor job of hyping up the Rumble main event one week before the PPV.

WCW News and Notes

- There was some talk last Tuesday and Wednesday about bringing Jimmy Snuka, George Steele and Tito Santana back after the reactions they got on Nitro last week. Here's the problem. Steele and Santana got good reactions because there were in Buffalo and they are legends. They will not get that kind of reaction every week. Second, Snuka got a HUGE reaction for coming off the cage, but he's not going to be doing that every week either. In fact, his knees are so shot that he couldn't even do the Superfly Splash at the Heroes of Wrestling PPV (his finisher was a bad crossbody block). So I doubt you'll ever see Snuka do something like that again. Maybe bringing them in once per year would be OK, but any more than that is a mistake.
- Hugh Morris is taking some time off to deal with some nagging health problems, which is why they did the angle with his "dad" a few weeks back.
- Whether it's true or not, Tony Maranera tells even his closest friends that he's had many, many concussions.
- Torrie Wilson was scheduled to come back at the PPV. The angle was that she'd come out with the Filthy Animals, and the Revolution would come out without their promised mystery partner. Then, during the match, Torrie would give Kidman a low blow and reveal herself to be the Revolution's mystery partner. I'm not sure why those plans fell through and why Wall got the gig instead. I'd expect her back in at any time.
- Chris Benoit and Dean Malenko are both expected to be a part of Super J Cup 2000 at Tokyo Sumo Hall in April.
- The latest word as of press time is that the Cruiserweight Title will probably be stripped from Oklahoma due to the weight limit, and a tournament will be set up in the near future. There are people in WCW who claim they are really going to try to make that title seem important again. I'll believe it when I see it.
- Bret's column this week talked about what a big risk it would have been to try and find a loophole to work the Souled Out main event. He said he read Mick's book and felt Foley missed the point about wrestling, which is to put on a good show without hurting yourself or your opponent. Bret sounded a little bitter about having been hurt by Goldberg and Dean Malenko (his torn groin).

- Ric Flair stated on Regis and Kathy Lee that he was "unofficially announcing" his intention to run for the governorship of North Carolina. The story got a good deal of press and was covered as a top story on CNN all day Tuesday.

WCW On Television

Thursday Thunder (January 12 — Taped January 11): Clips aired from Nitro. Bobby was shown calling Tito Santana "probably the greatest Mexican wrestler in the history of our sport." He's not even the greatest Chico... Bret arrived alone... Vampiro d. Crowbar in a pretty good match. David attacked Vamp afterwards, but Arn Anderson ran down to pull him off. David left in a huff. What a nut... Bret cut a promo and said he was sick of all of this crap and was leaving the NWO. Nash came out on the ramp and ran down Bret. Bret responded by calling him a "big tall piece of shit". Well, I guess that's better than a "big stupid dummy". Bret challenged all of the NWO to a fight later. This was a pretty good segment... They aired footage of Fit Finley vs. Brian Knobs from Nitro. They said they had to cut it from the show because it was too violent. Yeah, that bump into the cake looked like a career-ender. The real reason is that they ran out of time on Nitro... Knobs d. Norman Smiley in an Outdoor Hardcore match to win the title. This was pretty bad. They did a spot where Norman got "hit by a car", and let's just say if you've ever seen the footage from Memphis where Lawler gets run over, this was absolutely nothing like that... Revolution came out with Asya. I thought they'd kicked her out? Douglas hyped up the mystery partner for Souled Out, who, according to Douglas, remained a mystery. Saturn and Douglas then started screaming at Asya. They called her a "bitch" four times and it was never bleeped out. To think they bleeped out "fruit booty"... NWO kidnapped Bret backstage... The Old Age Outlaws watched Bret get beaten up on a monitor. Funk said they weren't going to help him because he deserved everything... Tank cut a promo and Jerry Flynn attacked him. They brawled onto a dirt pile which happened to be backstage. Don't ask me why. Cops arrested them... Oklahoma faced Madusa in an Evening Gown match. They both came out wearing dresses. Miss Hancock monitored the action. Madusa won in a revolting spectacle. Oklahoma tore her dress off after the match and poured BBQ sauce on her. Absolutely hideous... Booker T beat Midnight & Stevie. Stevie got himself counted out so Booker and Midnight would have to fight. He then KO'd Booker behind the ref's back and commanded Midnight to get the pin. She pulled the unconscious Booker on top of herself for the pin. The scary thing is that both Booker and Steve have had matches with Midnight, and Stevie has done a much better job carrying her... NWO continued to torture Bret backstage... Flynn and Tank got into a fight in the jail cell. Yeah, the cops arrested these two for fighting each other and then put them in the same goddamn jail cell. No wonder Russo got canned... Larry Zbyszko and Paul Orndorff went looking for Bret. Paul said he'd rather "go get a bowl of soup instead". He really said this. Do they really expect anyone under 55 to cheer these men?... Canyon has new music, finally. Bigelow beat Canyon in a very good champagne bottle on a pole match. Canyon hit Bigelow with the bottle after the match (it was actually Sparkling Cider). Luger, dressed as Sting, also did a run-in and attacked Bigelow for some reason. The lights then went out and a scary crow appeared sitting on the ropes. Man, Russo should book Halloween while he's at it... Gene had a face-to-face with Kimberly. She sure is hot. This was actually taped the previous Thursday and Kim scripted out

everything she was going to say in this entire interview. Horny Gene said she was one of the most visible people on TV, but then immediately asked her why she hadn't been on TV lately. Gene must have wrote this part. Gene grilled her about Bagwell. He grilled and grilled and grilled. He grilled until his glasses fogged up. She basically talked for about five minutes but said absolutely nothing in the process, which was PERFECT for this angle... Nash & Jarrett beat Benoit & Sid when Jarrett pinned Benoit with the stroke. Jarrett was working with a concussion here. Watching Sid and Nash in the same ring with Benoit and Jarrett really makes you realize how utterly horrible the previous two are. And I feel bad for saying that because both looked like they were actually trying for once... Bret came down to the ring with a pipe and called out NWO. He had a black eye. Nash and Jarrett came out with bats and squared off with Bret in the ring. They stood there for two minutes while the elderly Funk attempted to make his way down to the ring. Bret, Nash and Jarrett stood there for so long and looked so stupid that Nash almost started laughing. Finally, Funk and Arn arrived. Arn threw water on Bret. The angle was that the make-up for his black eye would wash away, revealing that this was all a swerve. Unfortunately, the make-up missed its spot and didn't wash away. Luckily, the announcers sold it. Nash then attacked Funk with the bat and Hart and Jarrett joined in. Larry and Paul ran out to make the save but got punked as well. In the biggest slip-up of the year, Tenay called them the "New Age Outlaws". Show ended with Nash and Funk fighting for the branding iron. Thank God the show went off the air at this point, because at the tapings Funk ended up being stripped down to his underwear.

WCW Monday Nitro (January 17 — Live): This show opened with a match already in progress. Kidman beat Psicosis in a good bout with the facebuster. Note to Kidman's opponents: Never try to give Kidman a powerbomb because he will pin you... Things looked good so far... Arn cut his promo talking about why Benoit had been stripped of the title. He said it was his first time refereeing and he'd been caught up in the action. He said when Benoit got chokeslammed, he broke the count when Chris got his foot under the bottom rope, so he should not have ended the match during the Crossface because Sid had his foot under the bottom rope as well. Arn sure is the bomb, and it sucked that he had to be the guy to do this... Stevie Ray and Big T came down to the ring and cut a promo. They bleeped out "fruit booty" again. Stevie called out Booker, but said he wanted him out alone. Booker came out and sent Midnight to the back. Of course, Big T and Stevie jumped him and beat him up. They went straight to a match and Big T beat Booker after hitting him with a slapjack behind the referee's back. Big T looked AWFUL, worse than ever before if that's possible... Vampiro d. Disco Inferno with the Michinoku Driver. The Italians were not happy about that. This was a pretty good match... Three Count came out and danced. Tenay ripped them a new one, which was funny. David Flair & Crowbar d. Shannon Moore & Shane Helms to retain the Tag Titles. Moore and Helms looked really good in this match and I was praying they'd win the belts, but it was not to be... Nash told the NWO that they needed to get rid of the Old Age Outlaws. Nash was so lazy he was slurring his speech... Tank killed Maestro with one punch to a big pop. Norman Smiley and Meng then came out, and they all looked at each other. Really, that's all they did, they just looked at each other, and then they went to commercial... Almost every single wrestler in the company came down to the ring for Nash's first speech as Commissioner. As they were all standing there, Tony said: "Anyway, we are seeing what I think, well, what I know is a first. Have you ever seen a talent meeting with

everybody coming out to the ring like this on TV?" Tenay replied: "With the world watching? Never!" They are right, never. Except for last week on Raw, that is. Why do the announcers have to act so stupid? I can think of no benefit to this whatsoever. Except maybe they act so dumb that even the dumbest fan feels smart for a change. Anyway, Nash made some dumb "Oz" and "Vinnie Vegas" jokes that he's been waiting to make for years. Unfortunately, he waited so long that nobody understood them. Nash called out Jarrett and gave him the US Title back. Lots of heat for that. Nash made some dumb rulings. He then signed Page vs. Bagwell with Kimberly as ref for the main event. This was dumb, but better than some of the other dumb things Nash has done... Masahiro Chono & Super J (Jeff Farmer) beat Rick Steiner & Mike Rotundo. This match went on forever and was JUST ATROCIOUS. God, was it ever horrible. The finish saw J turn a small package over so Chono was covering Rotundo. That was really the finish. And yes, this was during the opposed hour. What a bunch of fucking idiots... Nash sent Vito, Johnny and Disco out to "git" Sid... Sid killed Wall. This was surprisingly good with a TON of heat. Vito and Johnny ran in and Sid powerbombed them to death. Disco took one look at the atrocities in the ring and ran for his life... Scott Steiner came out with two babes and got some cheap heat. Then he beat up a plant and gave him a bloody nose. Crippled or not, Scott Steiner still scares the shit out of me... Luger d. Bigelow. Kanyon distracted Bigelow and then Luger hit Bam Bam from behind with the champagne bottle for the pin. Luger is the worst... Page d. Bagwell in the main event. Match was very good until the nearfall sequence. Kimberly is obviously not a regular ref, so she was kind of slow getting into position and making the counts, and it kind of killed the heat at the end. Finish saw Bagwell hit the Blockbuster and wave his arms in celebration. Kimberly suddenly ran up, bonked into him and fell down. Buff dropped down to console her and turned around into a Diamond Cutter from Page. Kimberly counted the pin and stormed off. They accomplished their goal, and that was to get people wondering who Kimberly really wanted to be with. Overall an OK show.

WCW On Tour

Charleston, WV (January 14): Disco Inferno d. Lash Laroux, Kaz Hayashi d. Evan Karagias, Harris Twins d. Big Vito & Johnny the Bull, Midnight d. Booker T & Stevie Ray. Three Count danced after intermission and then Sid came out and killed them all with powerbombs. Chris Benoit d. Rick Steiner, Dallas Page d. Buff Bagwell, Sid d. Randy Savage.

ECW News and Notes

- Paul Heyman wanted to bring Blitzkrieg in for the ECW show this past weekend, but it never happened. Blitzkrieg, who is working in computer graphics and apparently could make more doing that than he could wrestling, is still suffering from an injured wrist, which is probably why he didn't come in.
- Eric Watts is probably through after this weekend.

- It appears the Dupp Brothers have signed a developmental deal with the WWF and will be finishing up here soon.

ECW On Television

ECW on TNN (January 14 — Taped): Joel Gertner and Joey Styles opened up the show. Cyrus interrupted Gertner's promo and said he had a list of demands from the TNN offices. Basically, he said Gertner was banned from doing pretty much everything he does. This was a pretty funny skit, actually... Super Crazy d. Little Guido in a pretty good match. They said that Guido was 201 and Crazy was 194. WhatEVER. Crazy really needs to be elevated soon... A Rock-N-Bowl commercial aired. I almost pissed my pants. Earlier in the show, Cyrus had been talking about how Styles and Gertner needed to start hyping up TNN's newest feature, Rock-N-Bowl. I thought for sure it was a rib. Well, believe it or not, Rock-N-Bowl IS REAL. People bowl while rock music plays and cheerleaders bounce around. I'm not making this up. Actually, shouldn't the band play country music since this is on TNN?... Baldies cut a promo. Pretty bad. Angel did OK, until the part where he noted that his heart did not pump Kool-Aid (he really said this)... Mike Awesome cut a promo and offered Spike Dudley a rematch at any time. Judge Jeff Jones just stood there like a mute in the background the whole time. Why in the hell does that guy have a job?... Jerry Lynn beat Yoshihiro Tajiri in another good match. Man, ECW TV rocks.

ECW On Tour

Danbury, CT (January 14 — TNN Tapings): CW Anderson won a squash, Little Guido d. Jerry Lynn, Spike Dudley d. Simon Diamond, Nova & Chris Chetti & Kid Cash d. Dupps, Super Crazy d. Yoshihiro Tajiri & Tom Marquez, New Jack d. Angel, Impact Players d. Danny Doring & Roadkill, Raven & Tommy Dreamer d. Steve Corino & Jack Victory, Mike Awesome d. Rhino.

Philadelphia, PA (January 15 — TNN Tapings): Spike Dudley totally squashed Eric Watts, Simon Diamond d. CW Anderson, Nova d. Mikey Whipwreck. Cyrus came out during the TNN opening and threatened to kick Joel Gertner's ass if he misbehaved again. Danny Doring & Roadkill d. Raven & Dreamer. Raven threw Francine over his shoulder like a caveman and deserted Tommy, who got pinned. This was a setup to give Doring and Roadkill a push towards the tag titles. After the match, Corino & Jack Victory attacked Dreamer. Dusty ran out to make the save, but got gored by Rhino for his troubles. Sandman ran out to make the save. Super Crazy d. Yoshihiro Tajiri in a Mexican death match. Mike Awesome came out and said he was the whole f'n show. Of course, this brought out Rob Van Dam. They agreed to have a match. Before they could start, Sabu ran out and attacked Van Dam. A bunch of guys got involved and it ended up with Sabu, Awesome and Jeff Jones laying out Van Dam and leaving as a new heel stable. They did an angle where Guido attacked the injured Jerry Lynn. Angel d. New Jack in their usual match. Mike Awesome d. Spike Dudley in the main event.

Etcetera

- Make sure you check out the "Off the Top Rope" radio show if you live in the Chicago area, hosted by our good buddy Brian Schenk. It currently airs from 7:00 to 8:30 AM on WEEF AM 1430 every Saturday morning. Brian is also selling tapes of his show, and you can receive a sample copy for \$2 to PO Box 6082, Lindenhurst, IL 60046. For more information, you can e.mail Brian at his new e.mail address: offthetoprope@mailcity.com.

- Thanks for reading this week!

I hope you enjoyed this special Figure Four Weekly archive issue. The newsletter has recently DOUBLED in size from what you just read, and now features news from all around the world, including the US, Japan and Mexico. If you've decided to try a subscription, thank you. We have several easy ways to order. If you'd like to subscribe through the mail, you can send a check or money order payable to "Figure Four Weekly" to:

Figure Four Weekly
PO Box 426
Woodinville, WA 98072

If you'd like to order with your VISA or Mastercard, you can call toll-free 1-800-960-3366.

For fastest service, you can send your name, address, number of issues desired, credit card number and card expiration date to me via e-mail (bryan@wrestlingobserver.com) and I will send out your first issue that afternoon.

Our US rates are:

12 issues for \$33
24 issues for \$54
52 issues for \$100
104 issues for \$175

Our international rates are:

12 issues for \$42
24 issues for \$70
52 issues for \$130
104 issues for \$240

Those wishing to subscribe in the UK, please contact Stewart Dougall at: wrestlestar46@hotmail.com

If you have any further questions, you can contact me anytime at:
bryan@wrestlingobserver.com